

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

2568

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Communities

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Subject:

Craft Commission for Wollaton Hall and related young people's project

Total Value:

£46,590 (includes £2,200 value in kind contribution) (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

The Museums Service has received a grant from Arts Council England for an art project at Wollaton Hall 2017. This will enable Nottingham City Museums and Galleries (NCMG) to commission three artists (a craftsperson, a film-maker and a choreographer) to create a new exhibition for visitors to Wollaton Hall, including students and community groups. The artists will create a series of film works inspired by the Hall and its collections. These will be integrated with specially-created craft objects, to exhibit in the Hall's magnificent Prospect Room. During 6 weeks, the exhibition will offer audiences a unique experience of a part of the building not always open to the public. A related documentary film will be created by young people from the city, to show visitors how the artwork was made. This will also enable visitors who cannot access the stairs up to the Prospect Room owing to mobility challenges, to find out about the art from a wheelchair accessible part of the Hall. Arts Council England have offered £37,390 towards the project costs. Middlesex University will offer partnership support in kind (access to rehearsal space, an edit suite and free use of equipment) to the value of £2,200. The remaining £7,000 will be covered by core NCMG Exhibitions budgets (Visual Arts budget area) and will be divided between the financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

**NCMG has a long tradition of showing the work of contemporary artists at Nottingham Castle and exhibitions there such as the British Art Show and Anish Kapoor in recent years have shown that they can draw new audiences to the venue. Through its programme 'Trust New Art', the National Trust have also demonstrated how art can be introduced to historic buildings to bring fresh perspectives and ideas, as well as encouraging different audience groups to visit the venues and explore them in new ways. In summer 2015, we tested the potential of staging contemporary art at another of NCMG's sites, Newstead Abbey, with an exhibition throughout the house of art textiles collection from NCMG's collection. 9,557 visitors experienced and enjoyed this exhibition and we now wish to extend this approach to Wollaton Hall. Funding from Arts Council England will allow us to trial a similar approach at Wollaton Hall by creating an ambitious new work of art that is directly inspired by the Hall, its history and its collections.**

**The Prospect Room at the Hall is accessed via a narrow spiral staircase; fire regulations permit groups of max 30 at one time. The site therefore offers 2 special guided tours per day, providing a glimpse of a 'hidden' part of the Hall. We will enhance this offer by giving audiences on existing tours the opportunity to view the work. We will also offer additional tours of the work for targeted, pre-booked student and community groups.**

**We will target young people to visit the site through Illuminate, Nottingham City Museums' Young Arts Collective - a group of young people aged 16-24 which was established in 2012. The group has been running since and has a lively, highly engaged membership, providing NCMG with a sustainable way to work with young audiences in the city. We will commission Illuminate to promote the exhibition to their peers and to create a film about the process of making this major installation, which will build on their recent project experience and develop their skills.**

**To address the physical access issues presented by the location for wheelchair users and people with mobility difficulties, we will create a resource area in an accessible part of the Hall where Illuminate's film, along with related items from the NCMG collection will be shown. All visitors to the Hall will have access to this area. Film clips will also be available on-line.**

**The project will take place in March to May 2017, providing activity for the busy Easter and May Bank Holiday weekends and adding to the 2017 programme which includes the international 'Feathered Dinosaurs' exhibition from China. These two projects running consecutively will demonstrate the exciting potential of Wollaton Hall for a wide range of audiences.**

**The project will be fully evaluated, with the gathering of quantitative data and qualitative data (via an evaluator). Our learning will feed in to the planning of future projects with artists as part of Wollaton's development plan. It will also inform the planning of interpretation, and commissioning of new work, for the re-display of the art collections as part of the Castle's major HLF Transformation Project ('The Power of Art and Making'). We will negotiate access to the artists' films for use on-line after the exhibition, to create a legacy for the work and we will share our learning through our Major Partner Museum sector leadership activity and networks such as our involvement in CVAN (EM), the visual arts network for the East Midlands.**

**Briefing notes documents:**

**standardconditions\_2010\_onwards.pdf**

**Other Options Considered:**

This is the first time that an art project of this nature has been commissioned for the Prospect Room at Wollaton Hall. The project would not be possible without the Arts Council England funding and so the option of not accepting the funding offered will mean that it will not go ahead. It is a pilot project which, because of the experience of the artists involved, will help to raise the profile of Wollaton Hall to new audiences within the city, from the region and also nationally. The involvement of the Illuminate young people's group will also be an opportunity to attract young people to visit and experience the Hall, either independently or as part of a school or college group visit. Because this is a new way of working at Wollaton Hall, we will employ an experienced freelance Evaluator to gather qualitative responses from visitors and participants at different times throughout the presentation of the commissioned work. Our learning will feed in to the planning of future projects with artists as part of Wollaton's development plan. It will also inform the planning of interpretation, and commissioning of new work, for the re-display of the art collections as part of Nottingham Castle's major HLF Transformation Project ('The Power of Art and Making').

Option: Doing nothing - this would mean that the potential to use art to develop new audiences for the Hall would not be explored, the envisaged new visitors and related income would not be attracted, and fewer people will access this part of the house. In addition, the benefits that the project offers to some of the city's young people would not be realised.

**Background Papers:**

Not applicable

**Published Works:**

Not applicable

**Affected Wards:**

Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

Not applicable

**Consultations:**

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

Not applicable.  
The project will contribute towards the Council's strategic objectives by improving opportunities for young people to engage with culture.

**Equality:**

EIA not required. Reasons: The decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

**Social Value Considerations:**

Total project cost is £46,590 and £2,200 of this is provided as an 'in kind' contribution by a university. The remaining cash costs of £44,390 will be divided between a number of artists and suppliers. We will follow the Council's policy with regard to procurement.

**Decision Type:** Officer

**Executive Decision?** Yes

**Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation:** 119

**Subject to Call In:** No  
The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because the delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or Vice-Chair) in his/her absence has been consulted and agreed both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency.

**Person Consulted:**  
**Consultation Date:** 01/01/0001

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:** The terms and conditions of the grant should be considered in full to ensure that they are fully acceptable and that any required deliverables are capable of being achieved. In addition particular attention should be given to any clawback provisions included in the grant offer. In all other regards the proposals set out in the report raise no significant legal issues and are supported. Advice provided by Malcolm Townroe (Legal Services Manager) on 11/08/2016.

**Finance Advice:**

- 1.The total cost of the is project is £46,590, with £37,390 grant from Arts Council England , £2,200 partnership support in kind from Middlesex University and £7,000 from the Museum Services budget for exhibitions.
- 2.The terms of the grant are standard and do not give rise to concerns over deliverability.
3. The City Council contribution can be contained within the existing MTFP and the scheme will not have any long term financial commitments for the council.  
Advice provided by Steve Ross (Finance Analyst) on 22/07/2016.

**Procurement Advice:** The decision is to accept a grant from Arts Council England and commission three artists (a craftsperson, a film-maker and a choreographer up to a total value of £46,590) to create a new exhibition. The procurement team will provide any advice as necessary and support the service area to procure this requirement in line with our own financial regulations, as such there are no significant procurement concerns with this proposal. Advice provided by Rosalie Parkin (Category Manager) on 03/08/2016.

**Signatures:**

<b>Andy (Corporate Director of Commercial and Operations)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 18/08/2016</b>